



1st Armored Division
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**Media
Release**

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Press Release

Army concludes investigation of 1 AD Soldier's death.

WIESBADEN, Germany – Results of an investigation of a 1st Armored Division officer's death during Operation Iraqi Freedom have revealed additional information of the cause of the Soldier's death.

Investigations by U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division, medical officials and the division concluded that 1st Lt. Kenneth Ballard, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, died of wounds from an accidental discharge from his tank's machinegun on May 30, 2004 during an engagement with insurgents in the city of Najaf.

Ballard's family was notified of his death on May 31, 2004 where initial field reports said Ballard died of wounds from enemy fire.

Army officials notified Ballard's family of the latest findings on September 9, 2005.

"These new findings in no way diminish Lieutenant Ballard's heroism, leadership or sacrifice to the nation and the people of Iraq," said Maj. Gen. Doug Robinson, 1st Armored Division commanding general. "We honor his service and offer our condolences to his family. He is an example of honor and heroism for all Soldiers to emulate."

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